

Leicester 5th Mo 10th 1840

Dear Friend

Thy favor bearing date 18th of 4th Mo was duly received & read with much interest. Thine requests me to give thee something of the genealogy of the "Carles of Leicester" & I do not know that I can do better than to commence with those who first came to this country, & give thee a little history of the family from that time. Three brothers of the name of Carle came from England, one of them went to the South, one of them settled in Dartmouth, Mass; and William settled on Rhode Island. We have no record of the year in which they came but Williams son Ralph was born about 1660 & lived to the age of 99 years. He obtained possession of Mount Hope & there is a deed in this town giving the Mountains to his son, ^{Robert} "as a token of love & good will." Ralph and Robert came to Leicester when it was a wilderness, the Indians coming with them from Grafton to mark trees for a road; they went as far west as Barree, twenty or thirty miles from us, & concluding that to be as far as a road would ever be wanted in that direction, they returned. The Carles settled in Leicester; Robert had twelve children, all of whom were married but one, & most of them had large families. At the age of sixty he performed a journey to Rhode Island on horseback. An anecdote relating to his wife I will mention, as illustrative of the customs of the times. She was a Friend, & the first time she attended the yearly meeting a Woman rose at the opening of the meeting for business & remarked, that if there was any Friend present who could ^{write} it would doubtless be acceptable to the meeting to

have her serve as Clerk. As no other person spoke, my Great Grandmother arose & said that she could write, & if Friends would please to direct her what to write, she was willing to act in that capacity.

My Grandfather, Robert, had five sons, all of whom settled within sight of his door. My Father, Piny, was well known to the manufacturing community for his improvements in the manufacture of cards. I believe he made the cards for the first Cotton Factory that was ever started in this country. By more recent improvements the machinery for the manufacture of Cards is brought to great perfection, & is said to be the most curious of any in the world. The eccentric Randolph, on first viewing it, exclaimed, "Intelligence & an immortal soul." But this is digression. Our particular family consists of John Wilton Earle, Editor of Mass. Spy, Worcester; Thomas, a Lawyer in Philadelphia; Lydia C. Chase, Secretary of F. A. S. Society, Worcester; Sarah C. Hadwen, deceased; Mrs. B. & myself, at home, Eliza (Ada) in Philadelphia, Piny, resident Physician of the Friends Asylum for the Insane at Frankford, Pa. & Joseph at home. Piny is the Author of European Correspondence in the Spy, in which have been some very Ultra articles with regard to prejudice against color, & the piece of Poetry written at the tomb of Polycaepus, which was copied, by request, in the Non-Resistant. Our taste for poetry we derive from the Buffumers, our Mother's family, the Earles having more music than Poetry in their composition. We inherit both, & Mrs. Harac. A. Watts, who was originally a Friend, says "Poetry is the escape valve through which the suppressed musical talents of the members of the Society evaporated." Eliza visited at thy Father Chapman's at the time of the ^{two years ago last winter} Anniversary of Mass. A. S. Society, in company with Brother Mil-

ton & his Wife, I believe. Thomas was a member of the old Abolition Society & in his practice always befriended the colored people. Fingersoll an eminent Lawyer in the City, had a colored boy bound to ^{buy} his mother till the age of twenty two or three. The man sued for his wages after the age of one, & Thomas carried on the prosecution; which he said he presumed no other Lawyer in the City would have done. He was a member of the Harrisburg Convention for altering the constitution, was called in the ~~man~~ convention the Father of it; and was the only member of the Convention who belongs to the Administration party, who voted against the insertion of the word "white" in the Article designating the qualifications of voters. He never was active in the Anti Slavery cause until the burning of the Pa. Hall immediately after which, he & his wife joined societies. He was opposed to independent nominations of Candidates for the Presidency, and as this was the case ~~the case~~, I regret that he did not immediately decline the acceptance of the nomination, showing his independence on this, as he has on other occasions.

Ralph Earle, who accompanied ^{Andrew} Jackson on his visit to New England, is said to have painted the best likeness of him that was ever taken. His Father & one of his Uncles were Painters, ~~and a Cousin of his~~, Augustus Earle, is now a painter in England. They were descendants from our ancestors.

My Grandfather Buffum & one of his brothers were members of the old Abolition Society, & as at that time it was customary among Farmers to have their laborers sit at the same table with the family, whenever they had colored laborers they "cut down to meat" with the rest, without any distinction. Arnold Buffum is my Uncle, & Lydia B. Capron, Hannah B. Howe, Elizabeth B. Chase, & Dr. Bartlett of Lowell are my Cousins, each from a different family. The Buffums of Lynn & Salem are our relatives. Our Ancestor, Robert Buffum, settled at Salem 18 years after the landing of the Pilgrims. My Brother Pliny has a Genealogical table of The Earle & Buffum families, on being once asked if there were any great men in the family, he replied, that his Mother had an Uncle who weighed Four Hundred. And now, my dear Friend I think I have given the ideas as to who & what we are, a plain, common sense people, inheriting the spirit of Freedom & love of Justice & Mercy from our Forefathers, & wishing them to be extended to People of all colors & Conditions. Anne C. Galton, & Edward & Mary B. Carle, active, true-hearted abolitionists, are our Cousins. I suspect they did not anticipate such a detail, but I did not know how to make a better selection & in return, if it will not be too great a tax on thy time, I would thank thee when thou hast leisure to give me a similar history of your family, & some account of Garrison's origin, which I want to obtain, but do not like to ask him for it.

I take a great interest in the genealogies of families & anything relating to the early settlement of this Country. We have a question which we frequently ask people as a kind of puzzle, very few having ever given a correct answer. Our Grandfather Earle had Sixty Grand children, & our Grandfather Buffum fifty two, - there were nine children in our Family. How many Cousins had we?

Didst thou see Elizabeth Fry when in England & ^{thou} hope thou wilt have an opportunity to become acquainted with her & Amiee Opee. I am a little curious to know how the doctrines of Non-resistance will be received by English Friends; for, as my Brother Pliny remarked, they value their Government as the Apple of their eye. I think they hardly support the testimony of George Fox against worldly honors & distinctions, by withdrawing from the presence of the Queen backwards, whenever a delegation from the Society enters her presence.

I now respectfully request that my name may be erased from the Lithograph of the Declaration of Sentiments, for the reason which I gave in my other letter. Had I been a member of the Convention, very likely I should have signed it; as I was not, I had no right to. I take a great interest in the Society & trust I shall ever remain a member of its Holy Endeavor, not to live, as not to bring reproach upon this high profession. We shall do something in Leicester for the Fair.

Affectionately thy Friend, Lucy Earle

Maria W. Chapman

Boston

Mass.

By Samuel May to New York.



Very truly
yours
Henry A. H. [unclear]
Care of [unclear]
1840
am